CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend Applicant's claims, without prejudice, to read as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 25, wherein said server is in communication with the one or more specifier workstations and the one or more supplier workstations across a computer network.

4. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 3, wherein said computer network is selected from a group consisting of a local area network, a wide area network, an intranet, the Internet and a combination thereof.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 25, wherein each specifier shade is further characterized by at least one of: reflectance data, transmission data, illuminant data, an image map, and a texture map.

7. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 25, wherein each of the one or more specifier workstations further includes means for specifying at least one of: (1) one or more supplier submission conditions, (2) one or more supplier response timeframes, and (3) cost data, for association with the nested e-palette or with one or more of the nestings within the nested e-palette.

8. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 25, further comprising one or more

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color measurement devices, each color measurement device in communication with at least one of: (1) one of the one or more specifier workstations and (2) one of the one or more supplier workstations, wherein the color measurement device is adapted to provide spectral data.

9. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 8, further comprising a profiling system adapted to profile operative performance of the one or more color measurement devices.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 25, further comprising reporting means, wherein said reporting means enables one or more specifiers to access reports associated with one or more nested e-palettes.

13. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 12, wherein said reporting means enables one or more specifiers to access at least one of: (1) detailed reports, (2) summary reports, and (3) supplier reports.

14. (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 25, wherein CxF language protocols are used to facilitate communications between the server and the one or more specifier workstations and between the server and the one or more supplier workstations.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 26, wherein each specifier shade is

further characterized by at least one of: reflectance data, transmission data, illuminant data, an image map, and a texture map, and said parameters include information unrelated to color selected from a group consisting of supplier submission condition, supplier response timeframe, cost data, and combinations thereof.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

    a. storing information related to iterative communications between the one of the specifier workstations and one or more supplier workstations regarding the uploaded nested e-palette in a database associated with said server; and

    b. providing reporting functionality related to said iterative communications.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 26, wherein the sets of actual spectral data and the sets of spectral data associated with the uploaded nested e-palette are provided using color measuring equipment.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended)   A system for facilitating the creation, organization and exchange of information communications between specifiers and suppliers, the system comprising:

    a. one or more specifier workstations, each specifier workstation including:

        i. means for defining predefining a plurality of specifier shades, a plurality of specifier substrates, and a plurality of suppliers, wherein each specifier shade is characterized by a set of spectral data;

        ii. means for storing the defined predefined pluralities of specifier shades, specifier substrates and suppliers in a specifier database;

        iii. means for creating a nested e-palette for a set of goods, said creating means including means for:

            1. being adapted to selecting, from the specifier database, a set of one or more of the plurality of specifier substrates,

            2. associating the selected set of one or more specifier substrates for association with the set of goods,

            3. and to selecting, from the specifier database, a set of one or more of the plurality of specifier shades to correspond with each substrate of the selected set of one or more specifier substrates, and

            4. associating the corresponding selected set of one or more specifier shades for association with each substrate of the selected set of one or more specifier substrates,

wherein each substrate of the selected set of one or more specifier

substrates and each shade of each selected set of one or more specifier shades defines a nesting within the nested e-palette;

    iv. means for selecting from the specifier database a predetermined set of one or more of the plurality of suppliers for association with one or more of the nestings within the nested e-palette; and

    v. means for uploading the nested e-palette to a server;

b. a server in communication with the one or more specifier workstations, the server including:

    i. means for remotely storing one or more nested e-palettes uploaded from the one or more specifier workstations;

    ii. means for automatically communicating the existence of each uploaded nested e-palette to the predetermined set of suppliers associated with the nestings within the nested e-palette; and

    iii. means for restricting access to at least one of: (1) each uploaded nested e-palette and (2) each of the nestings within each uploaded nested e-palette, based upon the predetermined sets of suppliers associated with the nestings within the uploaded nested e-palletes;

c. one or more supplier workstations in communication with the server, each supplier workstation including:

    i. means for remotely accessing one or more of the uploaded nested e-palettes;

    ii. means for filtering the one or more uploaded nested e-palettes for at least one

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of: (1) one or more nested e-palettes and (2) one or more nestings within the uploaded nested e-palettes;

iii. means for importing submission data for one or more supplier shades associated with one or more supplier substrates, the submission data including sets of actual spectral data from one or more test samples;

iv. means for comparing the sets of actual spectral data to the sets of spectral data associated with the uploaded nested e-palettes; and

v. means for uploading the submission data to the server for review by one or more specifiers if deviations between the sets of actual spectral data and the sets of spectral data associated with the uploaded nested e-palette are within acceptable limits.

26. (Currently Amended)   A method for facilitating the creation, organization and exchange of information communications between specifiers and suppliers using a server-based system , the method comprising the steps of:

a. providing a server-based system including a server, one or more specifier workstations in communication with the server, and one or more supplier workstations in communication with the server;

b. using one of the specifier workstations and defining to predefine a plurality of specifier shades, a plurality of specifier substrates and a plurality of suppliers, wherein each specifier shade is characterized by a set of spectral data and wherein the predefined pluralities of specifier shades, specifier substrates and suppliers are stored in a specifier database;

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c. using the one of the specifier workstations and creating to create a nested e-palette for a set of goods, wherein the creating a nested e-palette for a set of goods includes:

    i. selecting, from the specifier database, (1) a set of one or more of the plurality of specifier substrates,

    ii. associating the selected set of one or more specifier substrates for association with the set of goods,

    iii. and (2) selecting, from the specifier database, a set one or more of the plurality of specifier shades to correspond with each substrate of the selected set of one or more specifier substrates, and

    iv. associating the corresponding selected set of one or more specifier shades for association with each substrate of the selected set of one or more specifier substrates,

wherein each substrate of the selected set of one or more specifier substrates and each shade of each selected set of one or more specifier shades defines a nesting within the nested e-palette;

d. using the one of the specifier workstations and selecting to select from the specifier database a predetermined set of one or more of the plurality of suppliers for association with one or more of the nestings within the nested e-palette;

e. uploading the nested e-palette to the a server, whereby the server and automatically communicating communicates the existence of the uploaded nested e-palette to the predetermined set of suppliers associated with the nestings within the nested e-palette;

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f. restricting access to at least one of: (1) the uploaded nested e-palette and (2) one or more of the nestings within the uploaded nested e-palette, based upon the predetermined sets of suppliers associated with the nestings within the uploaded nested e-pallete;

g. using one of the <u>supplier</u> ~~specifier~~ workstations <u>and remotely accessing</u> ~~to remotely access~~ the uploaded nested e-palette;

h. providing the one of the <u>supplier</u> ~~specifier~~ workstations with submission data for one or more supplier shades associated with one or more supplier substrates, the submission data including sets of actual spectral data from one or more test samples;

i. using the one of the <u>supplier</u> ~~specifier~~ workstations <u>and comparing</u> ~~to compare~~ the sets of actual spectral data to the sets of spectral data associated with the uploaded nested e-palette; and

j. uploading the submission data to the server for specifier review <u>if deviations between the sets of actual spectral data and the sets of spectral data associated with the uploaded nested e-palette are within acceptable limits</u>.

27. (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 26 further comprising using the one of the specifier workstations <u>and associating,</u> ~~to associate~~ with the nested e-palette or with one of the nestings within the nested e-palette, submission parameters including at least one of: (1) one or more supplier submission conditions, (2) one or more supplier response timeframes, and (3) cost data.

28. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 27, further comprising automatically validating operation of said color measuring equipment using a profiling system.

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